RESOLUTION NO. 2021-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK CRITICIZING AND CONDEMNING CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYMAN REGGIE JONES-SAWYER FOR HIS FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS MADE CONCERNING THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK AND SEEKING ACTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY TO CENSURE AND CONDEMN ASSEMBLYMAN JONES-SAWYER FOR HIS RECKLESS AND ETHNICALLY BIAS CONDUCT RELATING TO HIS RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BEFORE THE CALIFORNIA STATE LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, the City of Huntington Park is a community located in Los Angeles County comprised proud, hard-working, primarily Latino residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the need to protect and preserve the integrity of the City, its residents and the dedicated elected officials who represent and live-in the City; and

WHEREAS, recently, during the confirmation hearing of Assemblyman Rob Bonta, Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer engaged in reckless, uniformed and ethnically-bias conduct by making false and derogatory statements about the City of Huntington Park and circumstances surrounding the alleged conduct which has resulted in a City employee being arrested by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for alleged serious breaches of confidential information; and

WHEREAS, the false and inflammatory statements by Mr. Jones-Sawyer, included the following:

- "We have bad cities at the lower southern end of my district. You've heard of them before, Bell, Bell Gardens, and just recently there was an article about Huntington Park...We call it the corrupt crescent."
- "The whole finance department was raided by the FBI because they sent an \$8,000,000 wire transfer to New York for god knows what."

These blatantly false and misleading statements were directed at the predominately Latino communities of the Southeast Los Angeles area and were clearly intended to demonstrate racial bias and hatred towards the law-abiding residents and leaders of Huntington Park and other neighboring cities.

The true facts are:

- The cities mentioned by the misguided member of the Assembly are not corrupt and are working diligently towards correcting the false impressions created by those officials of the past. In addition, the Assemblyman lacks the knowledge of the boundaries of his District since the cities he mentioned are not in his District (except for a small portion of Huntington Park).
- The City of Huntington Park Finance Department WAS NOT "raided by the FBI." The City identified a City employee of the Finance Department that was engaging in alleged criminal conduct of raiding confidential information; such conduct led to an arrest by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. There was NEVER an FBI raid. The wire transfer was a wise investment made by the City, that is lawful and consistent with City policies and past practices.

WHEREAS, it is abundantly clear, by making such statements, Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer has engaged in the worst kind of reckless political conduct by engaging in false, defamatory statements and racially bias speech which require a retraction and apology by Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer or upon Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer's failure to retract and or apologize for such statements, it merits action which results in his censure by the members of the California State Assembly, including the demand for his immediate resignation and/or removal from any committee assignments or leadership roles, including serving as chair for any committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK AS FOLLOWS:

<u>SECTION 1</u>: The City hereby condemns Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer for his reckless, unprofessional, irresponsible and racially bias statements and conduct against the City of Huntington Park, its residents and its elected leadership and City Staff. The City urges Jones-Sawyer to immediately resign his position as Assemblymember for the 59th Assembly District.

SECTION 2: In the event that Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer does not resign, the State Assembly should demand he retract his statements and apologize to the City of Huntington Park, its residents and to the elected leadership of the City, including the City staff. In the event Mr. Jones-Sawyer fails to resign or retract and apologize for his inappropriate conduct, the Members of the California State Assembly should immediately censure Assemblyman Jones-Sawyer for his behavior and further remove him from all committee assignments and chairmanships to any committees.

<u>SECTION 3</u>: The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Resolution. The City Clerk is further directed to submit this Resolution to the Speaker of the California State Assembly and to all members of the California State Assembly and Senate for their immediate consideration and action against Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer.

<u>SECTION 4</u>: The City Clerk is also directed to submit this Resolution to other cities within the Southeast region and the City Council of Huntington Park requests those cities and City Councils to adopt a similar resolution condemning Assemblyman Reggie Jones-Sawyer and asking for his immediate resignation or, in the alternative, request the leadership and/or Members of the California State Assembly to impose other severe and appropriate sanctions upon this member of the Assembly.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Huntington Park at its meeting on this 29 day of April, 2021.

Graciela Ortiz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sergio Infanzon, Interim City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS
CITY OF HUNTINGTON PARK)

I, Sergio Infanzon, Interim City Clerk of the City of Huntington Park, California, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City is five; that the foregoing Resolution, being Resolution No. 2021-08 was duly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Huntington Park, approved and signed by the Mayor of said City, and attested to by the City Clerk of said City, all at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 29 day of April, 2021, and that the same was so passed and adopted by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Council Members - Avila, Sanabria, Macias, Vice Mayor

Martinez, and Mayor Ortiz

NOES: Council Members - None

ABSENT: Council Members - None

ABSTAIN: Council Members - None

Sergio Infanzon, Acting City Clerk